

Introduced by Senator Soto

February 23, 2006

An act to amend Section 8687.7 of, and to add Section 8587.2 to, the Government Code, relating to emergency services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1479, as introduced, Soto. Office of Emergency Services: disaster information center.

(1) The California Emergency Services Act generally sets forth the duties of the Office of Emergency Services in overseeing emergency preparedness and response activities in the state, including those activities implemented under the state emergency plan.

This bill would require the office to establish and maintain an Internet-based disaster information center for public access during disasters and other emergencies that would include specified information.

The bill would also require the office to evaluate the state's capabilities under the state emergency plan for response in the event of a catastrophic disaster in the state, and to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by no later than June 30, 2007.

(2) The act permits the office to establish a model process that would be made available to assist a community in recovering from an emergency proclaimed by the Governor, subject to specified criteria.

This bill would require, rather than permit, the office to establish the model process and make it available for these purposes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 8587.2 is added to the Government Code, to read:

8587.2. The Office of Emergency Services shall establish and maintain an Internet-based disaster information center for public access during disasters and other emergencies, to include, but not be limited to, disaster information, weather information, program policies, victim assistance information, and family member location information.

SEC. 2. Section 8687.7 of the Government Code is amended to read:

8687.7. (a) As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Community" means a geographic area impacted by an emergency proclaimed by the Governor that includes the jurisdiction of one or more local agencies.

(2) "Community recovery partners" means local, state, and federal agencies, private nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental agencies, faith-based organizations, and other private entities.

(b) The office ~~may~~ *shall* establish a model process that ~~would~~ *shall* be made available to assist a community in recovering from an emergency proclaimed by the Governor. The model process ~~may~~ *shall* include *all of* the following:

(1) The role of the office in the community recovery process.

(2) Procedures for the office to have representation onsite as soon as practicable after the Governor proclaims a state of emergency.

(3) The role of the office to facilitate the use of temporary services, including, but not limited to, direct assistance to individuals, families, and businesses, crisis counseling, disaster unemployment assistance, food and clothing vouchers, communications systems, replacement of personal identification documents, provision of potable water, housing, farm service assistance, tax relief, insurance, and legal services.

(4) The role of the office to facilitate the establishment of temporary structures, including local assistance centers, showers and bathroom facilities, and temporary administrative offices.

1 (5) Measures to encourage the participation of
2 nongovernmental organizations in the community recovery
3 process to supplement recovery activities undertaken by federal
4 or local agencies.

5 ~~(6)~~

6 (c) The office may refer the model process to the standardized
7 Emergency Management System (SEMS) Advisory Board, or
8 any other advisory board it deems appropriate, for review and
9 modifications.

10 ~~(7)~~

11 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the model process
12 ~~assists~~ *assist* and ~~complements~~ *complement* local procedures. The
13 model process should allow the office to offer additional
14 assistance when that assistance is needed but not available
15 through local agencies.

16 SEC. 3. (a) The Office of Emergency Services shall evaluate
17 the state's capabilities under the state emergency plan for
18 response in the event of a catastrophic disaster in the state. The
19 evaluation shall address, at a minimum, all of the following
20 topics:

21 (1) Mass evacuations.

22 (2) Mass casualties.

23 (3) Mass care and shelter.

24 (4) Utility failures.

25 (5) Transportation.

26 (6) Military activation.

27 (7) Family member locator activities.

28 (b) The office shall report its findings and recommendations to
29 the Legislature by no later than June 30, 2007.